

NOTES ON THE FLORA OF TEXAS WITH ADDITIONS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT RECORDS

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ABSTRACT

The following 15 taxa are documented new to Texas: *Alternanthera sessilis*, *Cyperus eragrostis*, *Urochloa ramosa*, *Lindernia crustacea*, *Phyllanthus fraternus*, *Stellaria parva*, *Alysicarpus vaginalis*, *Cardamine debilis*, *Rhynchospora debilis*, *Lilaeopsis chinensis*, *Rumex paraguayensis*, *Saccharum coarctatum*, *Utricularia foliosa*, *Polygonum meisnerianum*, and *Cuscuta polygonorum*. Significant new collections records are provided for five: *Scirpus cubense*, *Polygonum cespitosum*, *Phyllanthus niruri*, *Ludwigia microcarpa*, and *Armoracia lacustris*. Data are presented to question the presence of *Eleocharis compressa* in Texas. Taxa are listed alphabetically by family, genus, and species with annotations and citation of voucher specimens.

RESUMEN

Los siguientes 15 taxa se citan como nuevos para Texas: *Alternanthera sessilis*, *Cyperus eragrostis*, *Urochloa ramosa*, *Lindernia crustacea*, *Phyllanthus fraternus*, *Stellaria parva*, *Alysicarpus vaginalis*, *Cardamine debilis*, *Rhynchospora debilis*, *Lilaeopsis chinensis*, *Rumex paraguayensis*, *Saccharum coarctatum*, *Utricularia foliosa*, *Polygonum meisnerianum*, y *Cuscuta polygonorum*. Se ofrecen nuevas citas importantes para cinco: *Scirpus cubense*, *Polygonum cespitosum*, *Phyllanthus niruri*, *Ludwigia microcarpa*, y *Armoracia lacustris*. Se presentan datos para cuestionar la presencia de *Eleocharis compressa* en Texas. Los taxa están listados alfabéticamente por familia, género, y especie con anotaciones y citas de los pliegos testigo.

INTRODUCTION

Floristic work in the Houston area has resulted in a mimeographed plant checklist for: Brazos Bend State Park, Fort Bend County by Larry E. Brown, Frank Gregg, and Kay Lewis; Davis Hill State Natural Area, Liberty County by Larry E. Brown, Charles D. Peterson, and Joe Liggio; and the entire Houston area (Harris and adjacent counties) by Larry E. Brown. In addition, the present authors have just completed a plant checklist for the Trinity River National

Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County. This work coupled with plants sent to the SBSC herbarium for identification has revealed a number of plants new to Texas and significant new records for others. Some of these records were provided to Stanley D. Jones prior to the publication of his book, *Vascular Plants of Texas* (Jones et al. 1997). Here we give data to support inclusion of these plants in this new publication.

Unless otherwise indicated, all collections cited in this paper are in the Spring Branch Science Center Herbarium (SBSC), Houston, Texas. Duplicates of some collections are at TEX or TAES. Herbarium acronyms follow Holmgren et al. (1990).

AMARANTHACEAE

Alternanthera sessilis (L.) DC.—A few plants of this pantropical and federal noxious weed were found growing in the bottomland of the Trinity River in the Davis Hill State Natural Area; 4 Jul 1994, *Brown 18040*. Clewell (1985) reported it for Escambia County in the Florida Panhandle and Thomas and Allen (1996) mapped it for ten, mostly central, Louisiana parishes. Nelson et al. (1997) reported it new for South Carolina and cited published reports for its occurrence in Alabama and Mississippi. The key in Mears (1977) can distinguish the Texas species of *Alternanthera*, including *A. sessilis*.

APIACEAE

Lilaeopsis chinensis (L.) Kuntze—Affolter (1985) mapped this species along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast from Nova Scotia south to Florida and westward along the Gulf Coast to Louisiana (one collection). Thomas and Allen (1996) mapped it for eight coastal parishes west to Vermillion Parish. The only Texas collection is from Galveston Bay below the Abshire House in the Abshire Wildlife Management Area at Smith Point, Chambers County, 7 May 1993, *Brown 16926*. These plants were submerged at high tide and exposed during low tide.

BRASSICACEAE

Armoracia lacustris (A. Gray) Al-Shehbaz & Bates (lake cress)—Correll and Johnston (1970) did not report this white flowered aquatic crucifer for Texas. The first record appears to be in Al-Shehbaz and Bates (1987) where it is mapped in Tyler County. We found it to be infrequent in standing water in the Davis Hill State Natural Area, Liberty County (31 May 1996, *Brown & Liggio 19172*) and in the bottomland of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County (26 Apr 1997, *Brown & Marcus 20262*). These plants produced numerous flowers but had poor fruit development. Molecular studies based upon DNA (Les 1994) indicate that lake cress should be placed into a monotypic genus *Neobeckia* as *N. aquatica* (Eaton) Greene and that the cause for a poor seed set is suggested by the discovery of a triploid chromosome number of $2n = 28$ (Les et al. 1995).

Cardamine debilis D. Don—Plants tentatively identified as this non-native species have been collected in and around nurseries, greenhouses, and yards in the Houston area. These are similar to the native *C. pennsylvanica* Willd. and another introduced species mostly present in the northeast U.S. and Canada, *C. flexuosa* Withering. Rollins (1993) separated *C. debilis* from the other two species by its fibrillose roots and fruits <1 mm wide. Botanists may wish to reexamine their collections, especially those identified as *C. pennsylvanica*, to see if they may fit the description of *C. debilis*. It also would be helpful to search for additional characters to separate these three similar species. Lipscomb (1978) cited the Shinners collection as a voucher for the presence of *C. pennsylvanica* in Texas.

Voucher specimens: Dallas Co.: weed under lath, mostly along walks in clay, Northaven Gardens, north Dallas, 6 Nov 1960, *Shinners 29154* (TEX). Dewitt Co.: in Sandies Creek, 2 mi E of Westhoff, 5 Mar 1995, *D. Muschalek s.n.* (SBSC). Galveston Co.: weed in nursery in Kemah, 1 Apr 1975, *Waller & Bauml 3460* (TEX). Harris Co.: weed around the greenhouse in the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, off of Aldine Westfield Rd, 1 Nov 1997, *Brown 21715* (SBSC); growing in pots at the Edith Moore Sanctuary off of Memorial Avenue in Houston, 27 Mar 1992, *Brown 15868* (SBSC); weed at edge of San Jacinto Bldg at HCCS Central College, 1300 Holman Street in Houston, 25 Nov 1997, *Brown 21742*, (SBSC).

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Stellaria parva Pedersen—Landry et al. (1988) reported this chickweed new to North America from Acadia and Jeff Davis Parishes in Louisiana. Landry et al. (1989) provided a more complete discussion of its presence in Louisiana and cited an additional collection from St. Landry Parish. Thomas and Allen (1996) added Lafayette Parish to the Louisiana distribution. We discovered this species on a few disturbed sandy sites in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County, 11 Mar 1997, *Brown & Marcus 20104*; 6 Apr 1997, *Brown & Marcus 20216*. Since the original description is from Argentina in 1961 and the first Louisiana collection is in 1966, Landry et al. (1989) suggest it may have arrived in Louisiana and Argentina from an unknown native source. However, they failed to note that Pedersen (1961) in the protologue reported collections from Argentina and Paraguay in 1869 and 1872 and up to 1957.

CUSCUTACEAE (CONVOLVULACEAE)

Cuscuta polygonorum Engelmann—Correll and Johnston (1970), Hatch et al. (1990), Johnston (1990), and Jones et al. (1997) all include this dodder for Texas, apparently from Yuncker (in Lundell 1943), who included it fide Small. Even though Small (1933) gave its range from Maryland to Texas, the first Louisiana collection of it was in 1979 with a second collection in 1981 (Gandhi & Thomas 1983; Gandhi et al. 1987). The first Texas collection appears to be from Brazos County where it was growing on smartweed in the first bottomland along Highway 30, east of the Highway 6 bypass of Bryan/College Station, Sep 1996, *Cheatham, Marshall & Jones s.n.*

CYPERACEAE

Cyperus eragrostis Lam.—Tucker (1987, 1994) reported that this species has become naturalized in southeastern Texas but he cited no collections nor furnished details about its status in Texas. Tucker (1987) indicated it is native to the Pacific Coast of the U.S., a waif in South Carolina, and naturalized in southern Europe. It is similar to *C. ochraceus* Vahl and may be under this name in other Texas herbaria. The key in Denton (1978) can separate these two taxa and other similar species. The larger number of collections from LaPorte near the Barbours Cut Terminal of the Port of Houston suggest it may have arrived in the Houston area by ship.

Voucher specimens: Galveston Co.: ca. 100 m from Gulf of Mexico on East Beach in Galveston, 11 Jul 1981, *Kessler 4621* (TAES). Harris Co.: in roadside ditch of Battleground Rd, ca. 0.5 mi S of Hwy 225, 18 Jun 1983, *Brown 7207* (SBSC); in the Marshall Tract of the Compaq Computer Corp at the intersection of Hwy 249 and Louetta Rd, S of Tomball, 23 May 1992, *Brown 16104* (SBSC); weedy plants in the Park Harbor development along Barker-Cypress Rd N of Addicks Reservoir, W of Houston, May 1994, collector unknown (SBSC); a single plant in a prairie at end of Ramsey Rd, S of Keith Rd, E of Beltway 8 in Pasadena, 1 Jun 1994, *Brown 17952* (SBSC); small population on verge of Barbours Cut Rd between hwy 146 and Barbours Cut Terminal on Galveston Bay in LaPorte, 16 Jun 1994, *Brown 18022* (SBSC); frequent in ditch along Hwy 146 on W side across from entrance to Barbours Cut Rd in LaPorte, 27 Jun 1994, *Brown 18023* (SBSC); weedy plant at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office, near business Hwy 146 in LaPorte, 24 Jan 1995, *Brown 18403* (SBSC); in low waste areas along Southern Pacific Railroad Tracts just E of Hwy 146 in LaPorte, S of the Baytown Tunnel and Bridge complex, 19 July 1995, *Brown 18689b* (SBSC).

Eleocharis compressa Sullivan—Correll and Johnston (1970) separate *E. compressa* and *E. acutisquamata* Buckley. by the wider compressed culms in *E. compressa* and the more narrow non-compressed culms in *E. acutisquamata*. Further, they reported *E. compressa* only for San Augustine County in East Texas and restricted *E. acutisquamata* to the Edwards Plateau, the north central, and southeast (Refugio County) portions of the state. In addition, they indicated (page 275) that they are probably conspecific which is suggested by the overlapping culms width measurements used to separate them in their key. We were unable to borrow Texas and non-Texas material of both entities from TEX for they are out on loan to S. Galen Smith for the Flora of North America project. However, in a survey of collections at SBSC and ASTC, we found only specimens referable to *E. acutisquamata* Buckley in East Texas (San Augustine and Sabine counties). From the specimens available to us, both entities can be readily separated by the nearly round culms (7–9 angled) of *E. acutisquamata* that are up to 25 cm tall and 0.5 mm wide in contrast to the flat culms of *E. compressa* that are up to 42 cm tall and 2 mm wide.

Rhynchospora debilis Gale—Gale (1944) described this taxon as a new species and noted its similarity to *R. fascicularis* (Michx.) Vahl. Both of these

species were growing together at the edge of Galveston Bay on a sandy bench below the bluff next to the Abshire House in the Abshire Wildlife Management Area at Smith Point, Chambers County, 7 May 1993, *Brown* 16932; 27 May 1996, *Brown & Liggett* 19138. Here they may be distinguished by the taller (≥ 35 cm), thicker culms (≥ 1.5 mm wide at culm base), and flat leaves (≥ 1.0 mm wide) of *R. fascicularis* in contrast to the shorter (ca. 15 cm) filiform culms (≤ 1 mm wide at culm base) and filiform leaves (≤ 0.5 wide) of *R. debilis*.

Scirpus cubensis Poeppig & Kunth [*Oxycaryum cubense* (Poeppig & Kunth) Lye]—The first Texas collection of this sedge was in 1958 from Eagle Nest Lake in Brazoria County, *Hotchkiss* 7653 (TEX). The second Texas collection is from Fort Bend County where it was somewhat frequent in a floating mat of vegetation in Elm Lake at Brazos Bend State Park, 7 Nov 1997, *Brown* 21737. Thomas and Allen (1993) mapped it for eight central and eastern Louisiana parishes, none near the Texas border.

EUPHORBIACEAE

Phyllanthus fraternus G.L. Webster—The first Texas collection is from downtown Houston growing on bare ground among planted shrubs; 17 Sep 1995, *Brown* 18753. Webster (1970) indicated it is native to Pakistan and India and sporadically introduced into Africa and America. He cited only three U.S. collections, one from an abandoned field in Seminole County, Florida, and the other two from New Orleans, Louisiana (including the first U.S. collection). It is now mapped for nine Louisiana parishes mostly in the New Orleans area (Thomas & Allen 1996). It may also expand its range in the Houston area.

Phyllanthus niruri L. subsp. *lathyroides* (Kunth) G.L. Webster—Correll and Johnston (1970) indicated this taxon may be extinct in Texas (the only U.S. records for this widespread tropical American species are from Texas) for they reported it only from the Ottine Swamp in Gonzales County, probably based upon the 1935 Tharp collection at TEX. The only collections since 1935 are the following.

Dewitt Co.: a group of plants ca. 2 ft tall, on sand under bridge on Thomaston Rd, W of Hwy 87 along the Guadalupe River, ca. 2 mi W of Thomaston Community, 11 Oct 1994, *Muschalek s.n.* (SBSC). Fayette Co.: S bank of the Colorado River at foot of bluff, N of Monument Hill State Historic Site, 11 Oct 1987, *Carr* 7867 (TEX).

The only known U.S. collections are two in the nineteenth century by Wright, one of which is from the Colorado River bottomland, the one in 1935 by Tharp, and the two recent ones reported here.

FABACEAE

Alysicarpus vaginalis (L.) DC.—Isely (1990) mentions this native from the Old World tropics as occurring in Texas. He has examined Fabaceae collec-

tions at TEX and probably discovered this Hardin County specimen, 4 mi S of Kountze along roadside, 22 Sep 1960, *McLeod s.n.* We have collected plants of this legume along a pipeline right-of-way in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County, 13 Oct 1996, *Brown & Marcus 19731*.

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia foliosa L.—This large flowered, robust, floating bladderwort was not reported for Texas by Correll and Johnston (1970), possibly because Small (1933) indicated that it ranged from Florida to Louisiana. The first report seems to be in Taylor (1989), where it is listed for North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. However, Taylor does not indicate its distribution in Texas nor provide specimen citations. The majority of the TEX and LL specimens were identified as the robust *U. vulgaris* L. Taylor (1989) considers the North American representatives of *U. vulgaris* a distinct species, *U. macrorhiza* Le Conte, and indicates its absence from eastern Texas and most of the southeastern U.S. Coastal Plain.

Voucher specimens: **Brazoria Co.:** floating aquatic in water in the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge S of Angleton, 26 Apr 1992, *Brown 16020* (SBSC); Muldoon Club between Austin Bayou and Danbury, 19 May 1971, *Fleetwood 10029* (TEX). **Chambers Co.:** present in Anahuac National Wildlife, Jul 1990, *Neaville s.n.*(SBSC). **Fort Bend Co.:** Brazos Bend State Park in 40 Acre Lake beside dike between 40 Acre Lake and Pilant Lake, May 1994, *Gregg s.n.*(SBSC); 29 May 1993, *Gregg s.n.* (SBSC). **Hardin Co.:** 28 Jun 1952, *Tharp & Tyson s.n.*(TEX); Ariola Rd, S of Kountze, home of Jack Lloyd, 9 May 1957, *Whitehouse 32581* (TEX). **Henderson Co.:** Code Lake, 27 May 1940, *Siegler 2000* (TEX). **Jefferson Co.:** floating in canal along rd, 4 mi N of Port Arthur, 19 Jul 1946, *Correll 13357* (LL); J.D. Murphree Wildlife Mangement Area, 1–10 mi SW of Port Arthur, Big Hill Bayou, submerged, 20 Oct 1966, *West 127* (TEX). **Liberty Co.:** floating on water in bayou about 7 mi E of Cleveland, Rte. 321, 12 Sep 1968, *Correll 36458* (LL).

ONAGRACEAE

Ludwigia microcarpa Michx.—Bridges and Orzell (1989) reported this species new to Texas from two roadside collections in Hardin County. They state these collections are within former extensive wetland pine savannahs on the Montgomery and Beaumont Formations of the Pleistocene Epoch. A new county collection, perhaps from a younger formation, is from Chambers County where it was frequent along the sandy roadside of Highway 562 ca. 2.8 mi east of the road to Robbins Point Park, 27 May 1996, *Brown & Liggio 19132*.

The following collections at SBSC complete the documentation of this species in Texas. These roadside collections suggest it may be spreading westward via highways.

Voucher specimens: **Hardin Co.:** frequent in a dry roadside ditch along hwy 69/287 ca. 1 mi N of Kountze, associated with *Rhynchospora divergens* and *Fuirena breviseta*, 2 Aug 1986, *Brown 10581*; frequent in a roadside ditch at edge of a sandy acid area along Hwy 770, ca.

0.4 mi W of intersection with Hwy 1003 between Saratoga and Kountze, 16 Aug 1986, *Brown 10641*; on acid sandy soil with many bog plants along Hwy 421 ca. 3 mi E of intersection with Hwy 326 N of Sour Lake, 9 Jun 1996, *Brown 19202*.

POACEAE

Saccharum coarctatum (Fern.) R. Webster—Webster and Shaw (1995) did not consider the presence (*Erianthus*) or absence (*Saccharum*) of an upper lemma awn sufficient to separate these two genera. They, therefore, merged *Erianthus* under *Saccharum* and made the appropriate combinations under *Saccharum*. They did not cite any Texas collections of *S. coarctatum*, possibly because they did not examine sufficient material from Texas herbaria (the only Texas herbarium cited is BRIT). The following collections at SBSC document its presence in the state. The senior author first identified these plants as *E. brevibarbis* Michx. and then annotated them to *S. brevibarbis* (Michx.) Pers. var. *brevibarbis*. Joseph K. Wipff, then at TAES, identified them to *S. coarctatum*.

Voucher specimens: Liberty Co.: tall plants in moist ditch along Hwy 90, 5.4 mi E of Hwy 61 in Devers, 25 Sep 1993, *Brown 17493*; tall plants with brownish inflorescence along Hwy 90, 4.9 mi E of Hwy 61 in Devers, 7 Nov 1994, *Brown 17618*. Tyler Co.: large colony on low moist acid soil within Kirby State Forest off of Hwy 69, S of Warren, 8 Oct 1983, *Brown 6674*.

Urochloa ramosa (L.) Webster [*Panicum ramosum* L.; *Bachiaria ramosa* (L.) Stapf]—This native of tropical Asia has been planted in Texas and other states for erosion control and wildlife food but has not been included in any Texas floristic publications. It is reported for 31 Louisiana Parishes (Allen 1992). An adventive Texas collection is from Chambers County where it was growing at the edge of the Highway 1663 bridge over Whites Bayou northeast of Hankamer, 25 Sep 1993, *Brown 17488*.

POLYGONACEAE

Polygonum cespitosum Blume—Carr and Hernandez (1993) reported this Asian species new to Texas (first collection from Jasper County in 1992) using the spelling *caespitosum*. We are following the spelling in Kartesz (1994). We discovered this species on moist to dry disturbed sites in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Here the reddish flowers stand out in contrast to the whitish flowers of *P. hydro Piperoides* Michx. and other similar species.

Voucher specimens: Liberty Co.: 15 Sep 1996, *Brown 19701*; 13 Oct 1996, *Brown & Marcus 19732*; 9 Nov 1996, *Brown 19787*; 21 May 1997, *Brown 20445*. The following two collections, previously identified as *P. persicaria* L., are at TAES: Galveston Co.: Galveston Island State Park, 15 May 1997, *Rosen 0316*. Liberty Co.: ca. 4.5 mi S of Dayton along Hwy 146, 21 Oct 1987, *Nixon 16050*.

Additional state collections may be masquerading under this name in other Texas herbaria.

Polygonum meisnerianum Cham. & Schlecht. var. *beyrichianum* (Cham. & Schlecht.) Meisn.—Correll and Johnston (1970) indicated this species has been re-

ported for Texas but saw no specimens. Park (1988) also saw no Texas collections but reported U.S. collections from Florida and South Carolina and from Plaquemines and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana. The only Texas collection known to us is from Orange County where it was growing in a slight swale under a canopy of Chinese tallow trees adjacent to a fallow rice field near Nederland, *Knowles s.n.* The senior author originally identified this specimen as *P. sagittatum* L. and additional collections may be filed under this name in Texas herbaria.

Rumex paraguayensis Parodi—This native of southern South America (naturalized in Florida and Louisiana) is now in Texas (Chambers County, present in the East Unit of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge off of Hwy 1985, SE of Anahuac, Spring 1991, *Neville 274*). The key in Godfrey and Wooten (1981) can separate this species from *R. obovatus* Danser, a similar naturalized South American species in northern Florida and Louisiana. Thieret (1969) reported both species new to North America and speculated that *R. obovatus* almost certainly occurs in Texas because one collection of it was made within 150 feet of the Texas border. However, based on Godfrey and Wooten's key, our specimen is *R. paraguayensis*.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Lindernia crustacea (L.) F. Muell.—This Indo-Malaya native ranges in the U.S. from South Carolina, south to Florida, and along the Gulf Coastal Plain to Louisiana (Godfrey & Wooten 1981). Vincent (1982) mapped it for 15, mostly south central and eastern, Louisiana Parishes. He indicated it is spreading westward and that it may eventually appear in East Texas. We found this short blue flowered species on two disturbed sites in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County, 29 Sep 1996, *Brown & Marcus 19703*; 13 July 1997, *Brown 20581*.

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